

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of generating a price comprising:
2 generating a delta price; and
3 generating a final price using said delta price.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 generating a price; and
3 generating said final price using said price and said delta price.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein
2 said price is a base price.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein
2 said final price is associated with a product, and
3 said delta price is generated in response to a selection of a feature for said
4 product.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein
2 said final price is associated with a product, and
3 said final price is generated in response to a selection of a feature for said
4 product.

1 6. The method of claim 2, wherein
2 said delta price is generated by a server,
3 said delta price is generated in response to a selection of a feature at a client,
4 and
5 said client is communicatively coupled to said server.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein
2 said final price is displayed by said client in response to said selection of said
3 feature.

1 8. The method of claim 2, wherein
2 said price is generated in response to a selection of a first item, and
3 said delta price is generated in response to a selection of a second item.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein
2 said first and said second items are products.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein
2 said first and said second items are services.

1 11. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 generating another delta price; and
3 generating another final price using said price and said another delta price.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein
2 said delta price and said another delta price are generated by a server,
3 said delta price is generated in response to a first selection of a first feature at
4 a client,
5 said another delta price is generated in response to a second selection of a
6 second feature at said client, and
7 said client is communicatively coupled to said server.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein
2 said final price and said another final price are displayed by said client in
3 response to said selections of said first and said second features,
4 allowing comparison between said final price and said another final
5 price.

1 14. A software architecture comprising:
2 a quote processor configured to process a super-quote, wherein
3 said super-quote is configured to cause a plurality of database accesses.

1 15. The software architecture of claim 14, further comprising:

2 a pricing service, configured to instantiate said quote processor; and
3 a pricing engine, communicatively coupled to said pricing service.

1 16. The software architecture of claim 15, wherein said pricing engine is
2 configured to receive said quote processor.

1 17. The software architecture of claim 15, wherein said pricing engine is
2 configured to generate pricing data.

1 18. The software architecture of claim 15, wherein said quote processor is
2 a plug-in that is executed within a context of said pricing service.

1 19. The software architecture of claim 15, wherein said pricing service is
2 further configured to generate a gather data call.

1 20. The software architecture of claim 19, wherein said pricing service is
2 further configured to generate a pricing data call.

1 21. The software architecture of claim 14, further comprising:
2 a database layer;
3 a services layer, coupled to said database layer and comprising said quote
4 processor; and
5 a module layer, coupled to said services layer.

1 22. The software architecture of claim 21, wherein said services layer
2 further comprises:
3 a pricing service, coupled to said module layer and configured to instantiate
4 said quote processor.

1 23. The software architecture of claim 22, wherein said quote processor is
2 a plug-in that is executed within a context of said pricing service.

1 24. The software architecture of claim 22, wherein said pricing service is
2 further configured to generate a gather data call.

1 25. The software architecture of claim 24, wherein said pricing service is
2 further configured to generate a pricing data call.

1 26. The software architecture of claim 22, wherein said services layer
2 further comprises:
3 a pricing engine, coupled to said database layer and communicatively coupled
4 to said pricing service.

1 27. The software architecture of claim 26, wherein said database layer
2 comprises:
3 a database, wherein said pricing engine is configured to access said database
4 in response to receiving a gather data call from said pricing service.

1 28. The software architecture of claim 27, wherein said pricing engine is
2 configured to generate pricing data in response to receiving a pricing data call from
3 said pricing service without accessing said database.

1 29. The software architecture of claim 26, wherein said pricing engine is
2 configured to generate pricing data in response to receiving a pricing data call from
3 said pricing service without accessing said database layer.

1 30. The software architecture of claim 26, wherein said database layer
2 comprises:
3 a database, said pricing engine coupled to said database.

1 31. The software architecture of claim 26, wherein said pricing service is
2 configured to receive said quote processor.

1 32. The software architecture of claim 31, wherein said quote processor is
2 a plug-in that is executed within a context of said pricing service.

1 33. The software architecture of claim 21, wherein said module layer
2 further comprises:

a pricing module, communicatively coupled to said pricing engine.

34. The software architecture of claim 33, wherein said module layer further comprises:

a catalog module, communicatively coupled to said pricing module.

35. A method of retrieving information comprising:
performing a plurality of queries on a database;
receiving a plurality of data at a pricing engine in response to said queries; and
providing at least one of said data without accessing said database.

36. The method of claim 35, further comprising:
instantiating a quote processor.

37. The method of claim 36, further comprising:
passing said quote processor to said pricing engine.

38. The method of claim 37, further comprising:
receiving a gather data call at said pricing engine; and
performing said queries in response to said pricing engine receiving said
gather data call.

39. The method of claim 38, further comprising:
receiving a pricing data call at said pricing engine; and
providing said at least one of said data in response to said pricing engine
receiving said pricing data call.

40. The method of claim 35, further comprising:
receiving a gather data call at said pricing engine; and
performing said queries in response to said pricing engine receiving said
gather data call.

41. The method of claim 40, further comprising:
receiving a pricing data call at said pricing engine; and

3 providing said at least one of said data in response to said pricing engine
4 receiving said pricing data call.

1 42. The method of claim 41, further comprising:
2 receiving a request from a pricing module at a pricing service, wherein said
3 pricing data call is generated by said pricing service in response to said
4 pricing service receiving said request.

1 43. The method of claim 40, wherein said gather data call is generated by a
2 pricing service.

1 44. The method of claim 43, further comprising:
2 receiving a request from a pricing module at a pricing service.

1 45. The method of claim 44, wherein said gather data call is generated by
2 said pricing service in response to said pricing service receiving said request.

1 46. The method of claim 44, further comprising:
2 causing said pricing service to provide a quote to said pricing module in
3 response to said request.

1 47. The method of claim 44, wherein said pricing module generates said
2 request based on information provided by a catalog module.

1 48. The method of claim 44, further comprising:
2 building a super-quote.

1 49. The method of claim 48, further comprising:
2 sending said super-quote to a pricing service; and
3 instantiating a quote processor in response to receiving said super-quote.

1 50. The method of claim 49, further comprising:
2 passing said quote processor to said pricing engine.

1 51. The method of claim 50, further comprising:
2 receiving a gather data call at said pricing engine; and
3 performing said queries in response to said pricing engine receiving said
4 gather data call.

1 52. The method of claim 51, further comprising:
2 receiving a pricing data call at said pricing engine; and
3 providing said at least one of said data in response to said pricing engine
4 receiving said pricing data call.